

# Monroe Lake

**SEP. Schedule**  
**on the back!**

## Website

stateparks.in.gov/2954.htm



## E-Newsletter

bit.ly/monroeprograms



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**Monroe Lake Office (Paynetown SRA):** 4850 S. State Road 446, Bloomington, IN 47401, 812-837-9546  
**Monroe Lake Naturalist (Paynetown SRA: Activity Center):** Jill Vance, 812-837-9967, jvance@dnr.IN.gov

**Campground Reservations (Paynetown SRA):** 866-622-6746, CAMP.IN.gov

**Lake Monroe General Store and Boat Rental (at Paynetown SRA):** 812-837-9909

**Four Winds Resort & Marina, Boat Rental (at Fairfax SRA):** 812-824-2628, fourwindsresort.com

**Lake Monroe Marina and Boat Rental (at Cutright SRA):** 812-837-9394, lakemonroemarina.com

**Laura Thorne Training, kayaks - SUPs - wind surfing - lessons (at Fairfax SRA):** 812-797-4747

## Paynetown Activity Center

**Open weekends from 1 to 5 p.m. (and by chance) 812-837-9967**

*Located next to the Swimming Beach inside Paynetown SRA*

### Got a question? Ask a Naturalist!

The **Naturalist's Office** is located inside the Activity Center. You can also pick up maps/brochures/flyers or browse our library of field guides and other books.

### Live Animals & Exhibits

Check out our black rat snake, northern water snake, midland water snake, and garter snake. We also rotate in a different set of wall/shelf exhibits each summer and feature a large selection of taxidermy animals on permanent display.

### Hoosier Quest: Explore, Discover, Challenge

You can **collect a unique pin** for each Indiana State Park in *Explore* (each property can often be completed during a single day/weekend visit). Individuals can also earn special patches through both *Discover* and *Challenge*.

### Free Fishing Equipment Rental

Renters must be at least 18 years of age with a valid government ID. **Check-out up to 4 sets per person.** *Limited check-out periods available in Sep. and Oct.*

### Daily Craft & Coloring Table

We feature a **different craft each day**; most crafts are suitable for ages 5+. Another table is always stocked with crayons and a selection of coloring pages.

### Kids' Play Area & Small World Play Station

This area has a puppet stage, board and card games, puzzles, large felt board, picture books, and a touch table. The **Small World play station** features a rotating set of landscapes with miniature animals and habitat elements to stimulate creativity and storytelling skills.

### Jigsaw Puzzle Table

Spend a few minutes or a whole afternoon working on our current jigsaw puzzle (500-1500 piece puzzles designed for older children and adults). A different puzzle is rotated in after each puzzle is completed.

### Recycling Center

Recycle your **aluminum cans** with us! Proceeds fund programs, activities, and exhibits. You can also recycle plastic bottles and paper (no food containers).



**Paynetown Fossil Dig** Love searching for fossils? Check out our Fossil Dig at the **back end of the Overflow Parking Area** at Paynetown SRA! Although rock and fossil collecting is prohibited at Monroe Lake, any rocks and fossils found *in this activity site* can be taken home with you!

# Program Schedule

September 2015

Program locations are within Paynetown SRA, unless otherwise noted.

## ROVING NATURALIST

One of our naturalists typically walks through the Campground area on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights, as well as on Sunday mornings.

We may have an interesting item to share, a quick game to play, or an invite to an upcoming program. And don't be afraid to ask us your questions!

We offer both drop-in programs (from \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_), where you may arrive at any point during that time period, as well as programs with a specific start time (at \_\_\_\_). **If the program has a specific start time, please make sure you arrive on time or we may start/leave without you!**

**Programs listed here are designed for families/individuals.** Schools, scouts, and other organized groups should contact the Monroe Lake Naturalist for info on scheduling a private program (minimum 2 weeks notice required).

## Friday, September 4

**Tag, You're It! at 8:00 p.m.** *Location: Field next to Deer Run Shelter*

Do your kids have some extra energy? Scott will be leading several different versions of Tag! *45 minutes*

## Saturday, September 5

**Mushroom Hunting 101**  
**from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Location: Activity Center Patio**

Are you ready for the fall mushroom season? Drop by to learn how to identify a few of the edible varieties and avoid the dangerous Amanitas. Kids can also make a simple mushroom craft.

**Sand-cast Plaster Sculptures from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

**Location: Swimming Beach**

Drop by to design your own unique sculpture! You'll create a mold in the wet sand that we'll fill with plaster-of-paris to preserve your artwork. **Donations welcome to help cover costs.**

The plaster takes time to fully set; sculptures can be picked up at the 8p program this evening or at the Activity Center on Sunday between 1p and 5p.

**Coyote Howl at 8:00 p.m.** *Location: Activity Center Amphitheater*

Howls, yips, barks, and growls... many campers are familiar with the nocturnal signs of coyotes. But do you really know what they mean? Learn the basics of deciphering coyote communication and discover just how complex it can really be. We'll finish by creating our own group coyote howl... *45 minutes*

## Sunday, September 6

**Gyotaku Fish Prints**  
**from 12:30 to 2 p.m.**

**Location: Activity Center Patio**

Gyotaku is the traditional method of Japanese fish printing, dating from the mid-1800s, where pigment is applied directly to the surface in order to capture images of the sizes, shapes, surface textures, and delicate vein or scale patterns. Drop by to make your own fish print, using one of our rubber fish models.

**The Incredible Edible Campfire at 3:30 p.m.**  
**Location: Activity Center Amphitheater**

This program is a fire-building demo and an afternoon snack! Building a campfire in our campground is fairly easy... But what if you couldn't just purchase what you need? Attendees will assemble (and get to eat!) their own edible "campfire" as the naturalist demonstrates how to build a campfire from "found" materials that will light with a single match – and how to properly extinguish a fire when you're finished with it.  
*30 to 45 minutes*

**Feed the Birds at 8:00 p.m.** *Location: Activity Center Amphitheater*

Learn how to attract birds to your feeders all year and make a bird feeder to take home. *45 minutes*

## Back-story in the Back-water Paddling Trip

**Saturday, September 12 at 8:00 a.m.**

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/backstorysep2015>
- Registration required by September 9.
- Program fee is \$10 per person.
- Limited to 15 people, minimum age of 15.
- Bring your own canoe/kayak, or rent a kayak from us for \$25.
- This program is designed for intermediate/advanced paddlers. Beginning paddlers may participate **ONLY IF** they are accompanied in a canoe or tandem kayak by an intermediate/advanced paddler. No paddling instruction will be provided.



### ***Location: Pine Grove SRA***

Explore a portion of Monroe Lake's backwater with a knowledgeable guide! Our focus will be on the lake's fascinating cultural history – you'll learn about some of the families that once lived here, how the land came to be a reservoir, and visit some of the lingering remnants from those pre-reservoir days. *3 to 4 hours*

## Saturday, September 12

**Eye on the Sky Astronomy Night from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

***Location: Swimming Beach***

**\*Weather Notice\*** This program requires clear or mostly clear skies. It will be cancelled if there is too much cloud cover. If sky conditions look iffy, call the Activity Center at 812-837-9967 to check program status.

**\*Special Request\*** Please do not shine your vehicle headlights onto the swimming beach when arriving/departing! Bright lights make it harder for our eyes to see all of the amazing objects in the night sky.

Drop by and join us as we turn our eyes upward to look at stars, constellations, planets, and more... we'll have a telescope and binoculars to give you a closer look at some objects – and we'll point out other objects that are visible with the "naked eye."

## Monroe Lake Shoreline Cleanup!

**Salt Creek SRA on Sunday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m.**

A summer full of fun and recreation at Monroe Lake creates more than memories... it also results in a lot of trash! We need your help to clean up the mess and restore our lakeshore to an inviting habitat for both people and wildlife. We will be transporting people by boat to areas of the shoreline that are difficult to reach by other means.

**Volunteer registration deadline is September 9!**

**Register ONLINE at <http://bit.ly/monroecleanup2015>**

- All volunteers must be at least 10 years old; ages 10-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is limited to 100 volunteers. Adult volunteers will be required to sign a DNR Volunteer Agreement.
- Gloves and trash bags provided. Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and bring their a water bottle.
- Registered volunteers should check in between 1p and 1:30p. Cleanup ends at 5:30p.
- Free "Thank You" cookout afterwards for all volunteers! (vegetarian options available)



## Nature on the Water Paddling Trip

Tuesday, September 15 at 9:00 a.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/naturewatersep2015>
- Registration required by September 11.
- Limited to 8 people. Restricted to ages 16 and up.
- Program fee is \$10 per person.
- Bring your own canoe/kayak, or rent a kayak from us for \$25.
- Beginning paddlers are welcome but must have at least 2 hours of prior paddling experience.

**Location: Northfork Marshes**

A naturalist guide will highlight flora and fauna during a leisurely exploration of Monroe Lake backwaters. *2 hours 30 minutes*



## Bike Back in Time

### *A Guided Cycling Tour of Monroe Lake's Cultural History*

Saturday, September 19 at 10:00 a.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/bikebacksep2015>
- Registration required by September 15.
- Limited to 10 people, minimum age of 15.
- Program fee is \$20 per person.

**Location: Meet at Paynetown SRA**

Enjoy a scenic ride around Monroe Lake with stops to explore the area's cultural history... you'll learn about some of the families that once lived here, how the land came to be a reservoir, and what remnants still remain of those pre-reservoir days. *Approx. 6 hours*

**This tour is designed for people with intermediate to advanced cycling skills.** The route is approx. 37 miles and includes frequent hills. Average travel speed is expected to be about 13mph.

Participants must bring their own bike (suitable for the hilly terrain and distance), helmet (mandatory!), water, and a sack lunch. There is no SAG vehicle, so make sure you have a way to carry your own water/food.

## Saturday, September 19

**Who's Hiding in the Campground? at 8:00 p.m.** *Location: Activity Center Amphitheater*

You can spot all kinds of wildlife without leaving your campsite, but some animals are easier to spot than others! Discover which species are most likely to keep themselves hidden from humans – and how you can learn to spot the signs of their presence. *45 minutes*

# Furs. Fins. Float. FUN!

**Saturday, September 26 from 2 to 6 p.m.**

**at Paynetown State Recreation Area**

**A celebration of hunting, fishing, and water recreation!**



Demonstrations, hands-on activities, and “show and tell” displays will highlight some of the fun activities that you can experience at Monroe Lake! A great opportunity for both kids and adults to explore different types of hunting, fishing, and water recreation sports. Bring the whole family!

**The final schedule of demonstrations, activities, and event participants will be released right before Labor Day.**

Download the schedule from our website at <http://stateparks.in.gov/2954.htm>, email [jvance@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jvance@dnr.IN.gov), or call the Activity Center at 812-837-9967.

## Monday, September 28

**Lunch with Nature Series at 11:00 a.m.**



- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/lwnsep2015>
- Registration required by September 22.
- Limited to 12 people. Recommended for adults.

**Location: Paynetown Activity Center**

*Join us for our monthly Lunch with Nature Series! Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the main presentation. Afterwards, there is a short walk/hike that highlights the topic. **90 minutes***

**This month's topic is: The Nut Gatherers.** We'll explore the nut gathering tendencies of three Indiana animals – the why, what, where, and how of their food “caching” behaviors. We'll finish with a short hike into the forest to look at different varieties of masting trees.